

**TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC HEARING  
FEBRUARY 14, 2017 7:15 p.m.  
Legislative Chamber**

**Resolution Approving the Sale of Land at the Intersection of  
South Street and Southwood Drive**

Public Hearing started at 7:16 p.m.

President Cantor: Calling the 7:15 Public Hearing to order. This is a Resolution Approving the Sale of Land at the Intersection of South Street and Southwood Drive. Roll call, Ms. Labrot.

Councilors Present: Barnes, Cantor, Casperson, Davidoff, Dodge, Hall, Kerrigan, Wenograd and Williams

President Cantor: Thank you. We have a presentation from Staff?

Mr. Alair: We do. It's sort of a divided presentation. I just wanted to explain to you this is a Resolution not an Ordinance. A statute was passed in the mid-90s, which requires a municipality to hold a public hearing before selling property under certain circumstances, one of which is if it's valued at \$10,000 or more. Given that we are at exactly \$10,000 for this piece of property, we didn't want to make it \$9,999 and, and look like we were gaming the system. We just set it for hearing. There's no reason not to, but that's why you're here on a Resolution rather than an Ordinance. It's a little peculiar, but for the substance I will turn it over to the Town Manager.

President Cantor: Thank you, Mr. Alair.

Mr. Van Winkle: Thank you, Mr. Alair. David Chenail approached us about selling a piece of property on the corner of Southwood Road, Southwood Drive. This property was left over from the development of the industrial area, it goes all the way back to the 1970s. That street used to be called New Rose Avenue and it was redeveloped and turned into housing in that area and there were two parcels of land, which the Town held on to simply because they were left over; one on each side of the corner of Southwood Road and South, South Street. When he first asked the question, we went out and looked at it and the two parcels of land provide a nice green entrance to the residential neighborhood and so my first reaction was, no, we don't want to do that. We want to maintain this entrance that we have here. But he indicated that, well, I'm not looking to build on it, develop it. And I said, well, here's what you need to do. Go talk to your neighbors, which he did. He went out and talked to the residents on Southwood Drive and showed them a plan, what he might do to improve that green space, and they liked it. We got no negative response out of the street. He offered us \$10,000. It went to the TPZ and got a unanimous approval there. So it's a piece of land which we no longer have to mow, those little pieces that we own all over town, so it's really great to be able to, and he's really the only one who could benefit from this because it's a small piece of land adjacent to his property. If I bought it, I couldn't use it for anything. I, I, as an investor, you can't build on it. It's too small. It's got no value to anyone but the adjacent property owner, so I'm delighted to take one small piece of property off of our mowing list and, and to assist a business in West Hartford to be able to beautify their business on that street.

President Cantor: Thank you, Mr. Van Winkle. Anything else? Any questions? Okay. Sign-up sheet. We have one person signed up, and it's Blake Chenail. State your name and address for the record.

Mr. Chenail: How you doing? My name is Blake Chenail, 66 Sampson Street. I'm here on behalf of my father, David, who unfortunately wasn't able to make it tonight. Basically, just wanted to give you, say thank you for giving the time to take a look at this. We look forward to beautifying it. Basically, talked about a lot of it, it's residential, keeping it green. We would like to, you know, spice it up a little bit, get some color in there. We own the two parcels next door and we, actually and the house right by it, so if you, kind of a nice area just to keep green and to give some life back to those, that one little neighborhood. So that's basically it.

President Cantor: Thank you, Blake. If you, you got an okay from Sean then we're all good.

Mr. Chenail: Okay. That makes sense.

President Cantor: All right. Thank you. All right. I'd like to read in the record a letter dated...oh, I'm sorry. Did anybody else, is there anybody else in the audience that would like to speak to this public hearing? No. I'd like to read into the record a letter dated February 7, 2017 from TPZ recommending approval. And if there's nothing else then we will close the public hearing. Thank you.

Public Hearing closed at 7:22 p.m.

Essie S. Labrot  
Town/Council Clerk

/dd